

POPPO

of the **POPCORN** THEATRE

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VOL. 1, NO. 1

10¢

HA! HA!
GEE, POPPO,
IS THERE
ANYTHING
YOU CAN'T
DO?

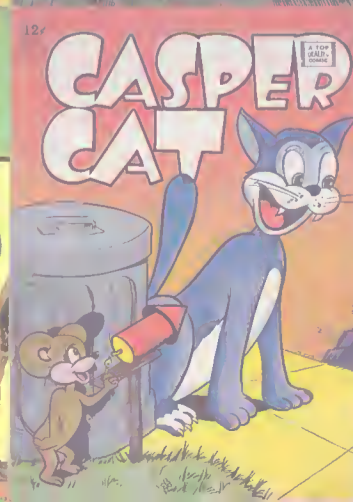
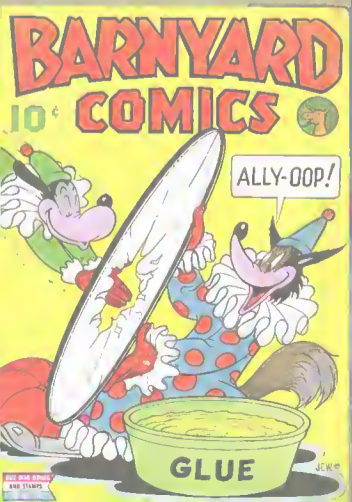
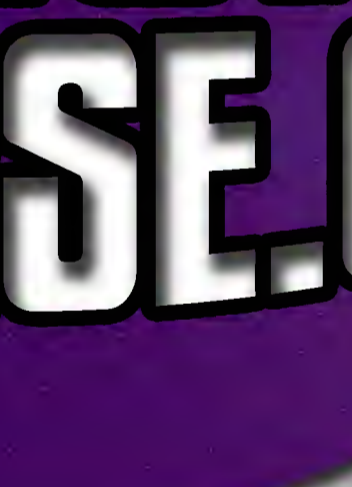
YEP,
I CAN'T
HELP
LIKING
KIDS!



CHARLES
BIRD



WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM

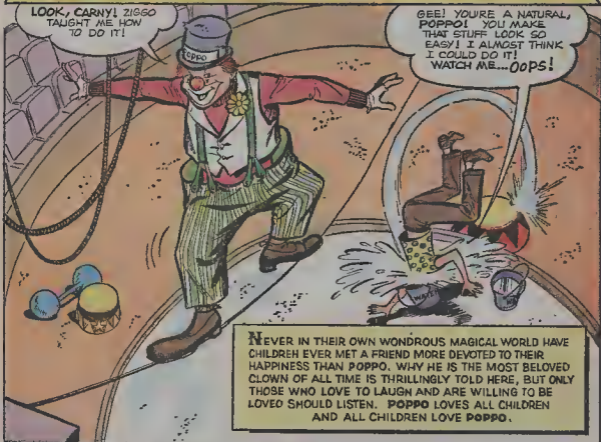




POPPO—THE CLOWN—WHO "CAN'T HELP LIKING KIDS", HAS TRAVELED THE WORLD OVER PHOTOGRAPHING HIS ADVENTURES—THE GREAT ACTS THAT PLAYED ON THE SAME BILL—AND COLLECTING PRINTS OF THE CARTOONS AND COMEDIES THAT HE ENJOYED. BORN TO THE CIRCUS, AND THE JOY OF MAKING OTHERS LAUGH, HIDING HIS OWN SORROWS SO OTHERS MAY BE HAPPY, HE IS THE CLOWN OF ALL AGES—FOR ALL AGES. NOW HE HAS RETIRED FROM THE CIRCUS, BUT STILL FINDS HIS REWARDS IN LIFE MAKING OTHERS LAUGH.

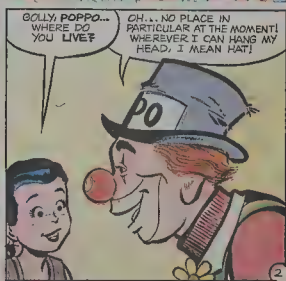
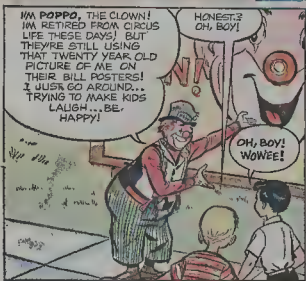
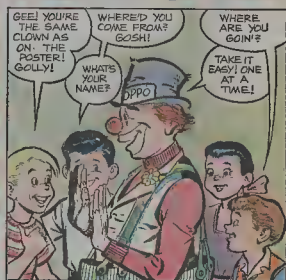
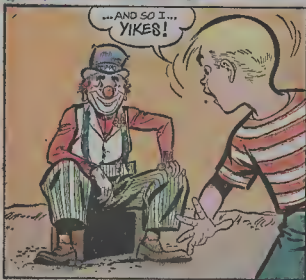
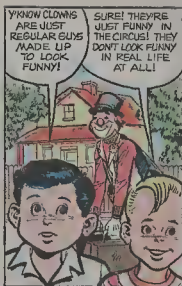
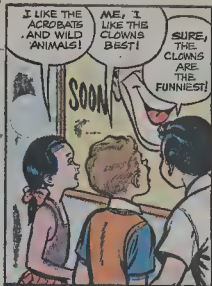


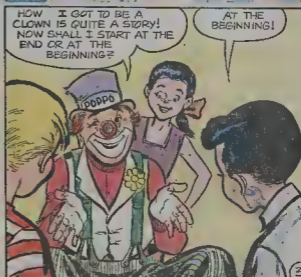
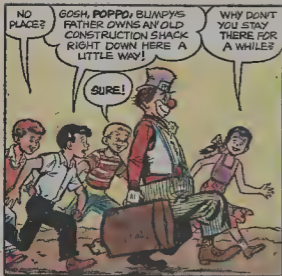
POPPO the CLOWN



NEVER IN THEIR OWN WONDROUS MAGICAL WORLD HAVE CHILDREN EVER MET A FRIEND MORE DEVOTED TO THEIR HAPPINESS THAN POPPO. WHY HE IS THE MOST BELOVED CLOWN OF ALL TIME IS THRILLINGLY TOLD HERE, BUT ONLY THOSE WHO LOVE TO LAUGH AND ARE WILLING TO BE LOVED SHOULD LISTEN. POPPO LOVES ALL CHILDREN AND ALL CHILDREN LOVE POPPO.



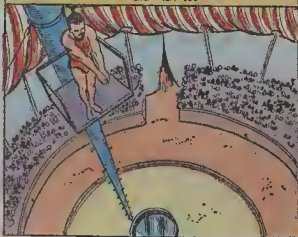




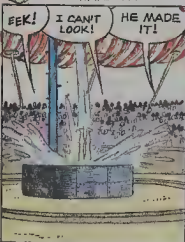
"WELL, BOYS, WAY WAY BACK, WHEN I WAS A LITTLE FELLER LIKE BUMPY HERE, I LIVED WITH MY FATHER AND WE TRAVELED WITH THE CIRCUS! AND WAS THAT A BIG CIRCUS! COME TO THINK OF IT, MAYBE MY BEING SO LITTLE WAS WHAT MADE IT SO BIG!



BUT I WISH YOU FELLAS COULD HAVE SEEN MY FATHER'S ACT! HE USED TO CLIMB UP TO THE TIPPTOP OF A HUNDRED FOOT TOWER INSIDE THE BIG TOP...

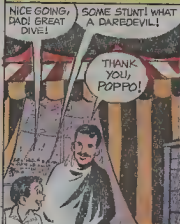


THEN HE'D DIVE STRAIGHT DOWN INTO THAT LITTLE TANK OF WATER...



EK! I CAN'T LOOK! HE MADE IT!

AND HE ALWAYS HIT THAT WATER JUST RIGHT! YES SIR... HE HARDLY EVER MADE A SPLASH!



NICE GOING, DAD! GREAT DIVE!

SOME STUNT! WHAT A DAREDEVIL!

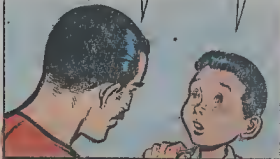
THANK YOU, POPPO!

GOSH, YOU WERE SWELL TODAY, DAD! I CAN HARDLY WAIT TILL I HAVE AN ACT TOO! I'VE BEEN WORKING HARD! ZIGGO'S BEEN TEACHIN' ME TO WALK TIGHTROPE!



POPPO, I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE THE CIRCUS IS NO LIFE FOR A CHILD! TOMORROW YOU'LL BE TEN YEARS OLD! I PROMISED MYSELF THAT I'D QUIT WHEN YOU WERE TEN, AND BUY A HOUSE SO YOU COULD GROW UP WITH OTHER KIDS AND GO TO SCHOOL, AND BECOME AN ARCHITECT, A DOCTOR OR AN ENGINEER, MAYBE!

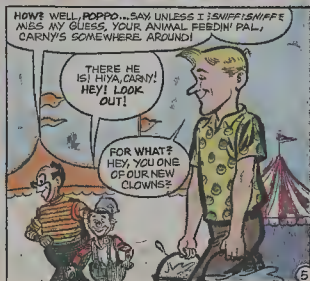
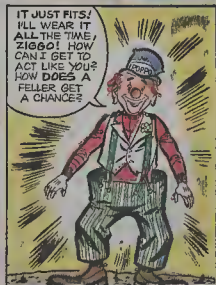
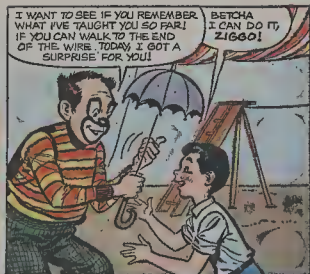
BUT... BUT...

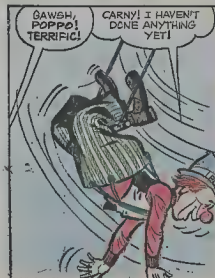
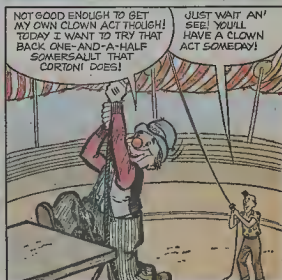
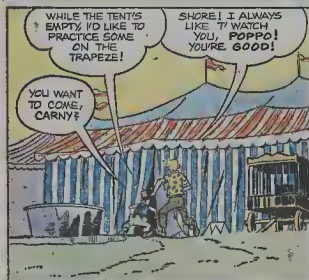
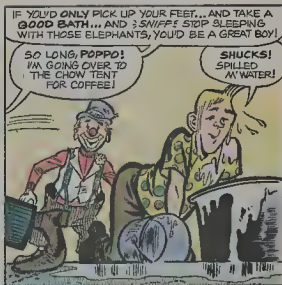
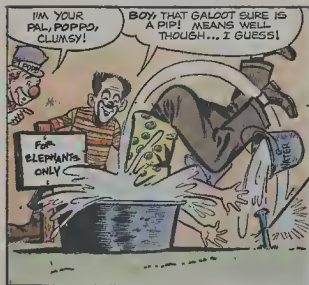


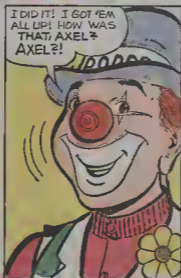
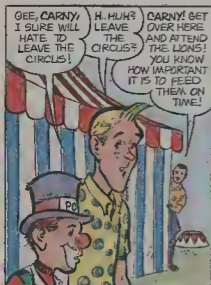
NOW, NO BUTS, POPPO! MY MIND'S MADE UP! AT THE END OF THE SUMMER WE'RE GETTING OUT OF CIRCUS LIFE!

AW... OKAY, DAD!









POPPO

"TOUCHING SUCCESS"

GEE, POPPO! WHAT HAPPENED THEN?

WHAT DIDN'T!



MY PAL, CARNY LOVED TO SNOOZE IN THE ELEPHANTS' TENT! ONE DAY HE WAS SNORING AWAY...



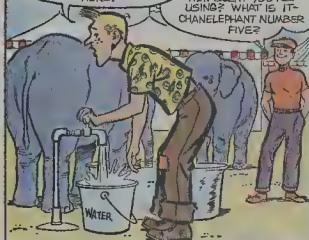
HEY, CARNY! UP AN' AT 'EM! AFTER YOU FEED THE ELEPHANTS, DON'T FORGET MY CATS!

O-KAY, AXEL!



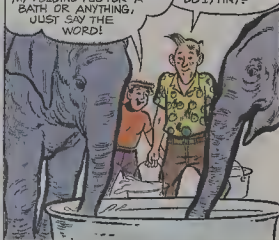
HO-HUMM... SHORE IS HARD T'GET MY SLEEP AROUND HERE!

SNIFF! SNIFF! SAY, CARNY, IS THAT A NEW SCENT YOU'RE USING? WHAT IS IT-CHANELEPHANT NUMBER FIVE?



NO KIDDING, CARNY BOY, IF YOU EVER WANT TO BORROW MY FOLDING TUB FOR A BATH OR ANYTHING, JUST SAY THE WORD!

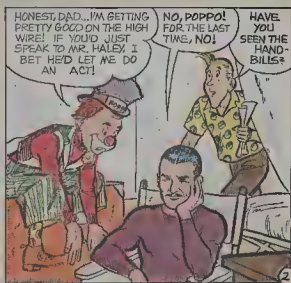
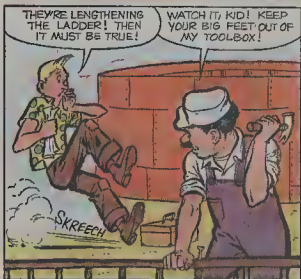
SHUCKS! I DONT NEED A BATH, DO I, TINY?

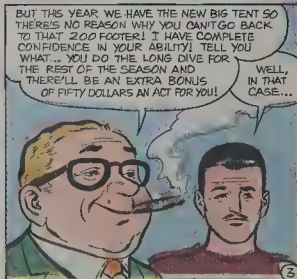
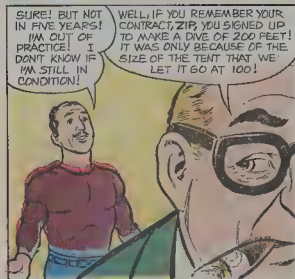
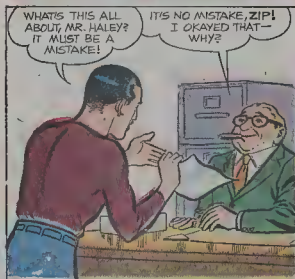
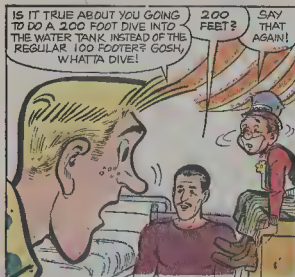


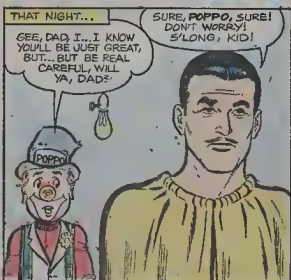
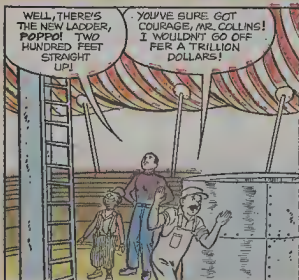
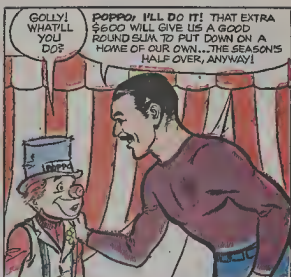
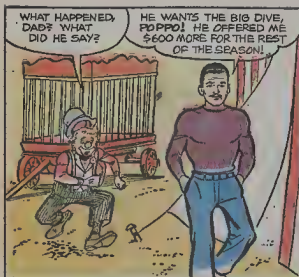
LOOKS LIKE TINY DOESN'T QUITE AGREE WITH YOU, CARNY! OH, HA! HA! HEE! HEE!

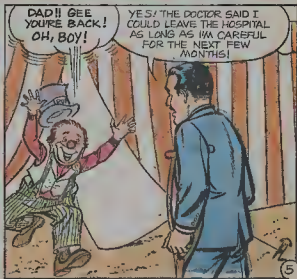
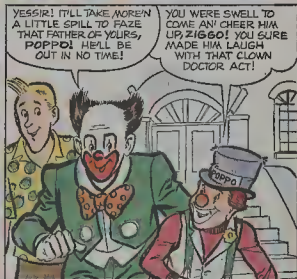
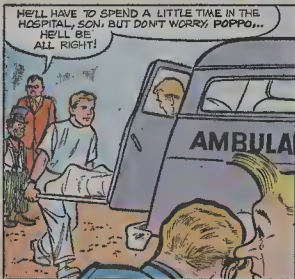
THAT MAKES THE SECOND BATH THIS YEAR!

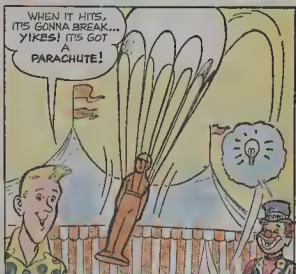
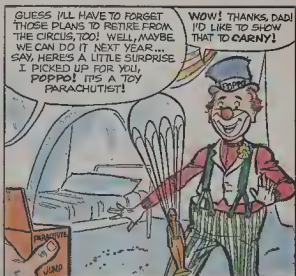
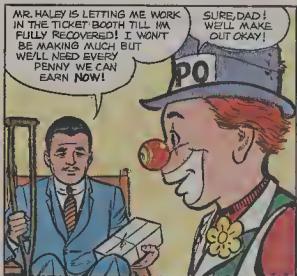


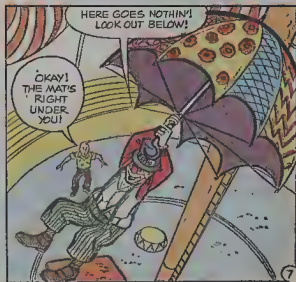
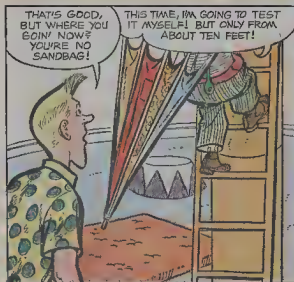
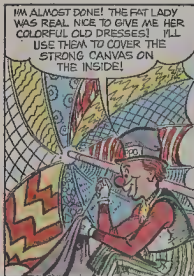


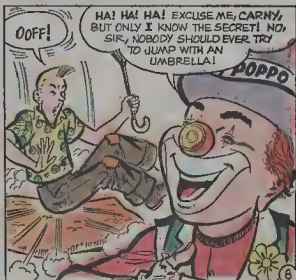
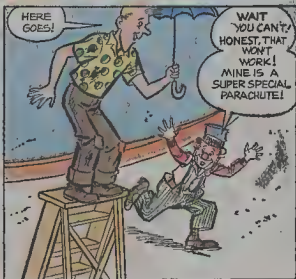
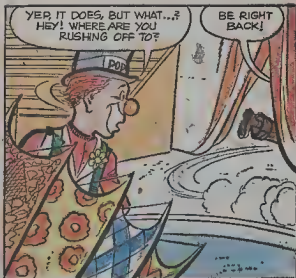
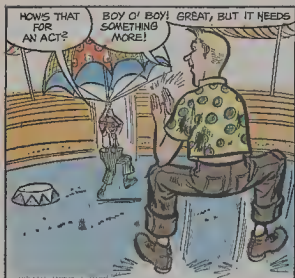












POPPO

"BOOMING SUCCESS..."



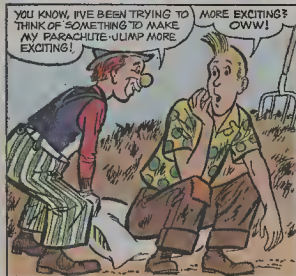
CARNY'S DIDN'T WORK OUT SO WELL! SAY, YOU HAD BETTER HANG A PARACHUTE ON THAT BANANA!

ANYWAY, LATER, I WENT OVER TO SEE CARNY...



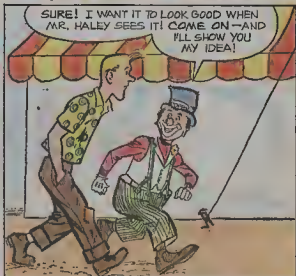
HI, CARNY! ARE YOU OKAY?

NO BROKEN BONES OR ANYTHING, BUT FROM NOW ON I'M STAYING WITH MY LIONS WHERE IT'S SAFE!

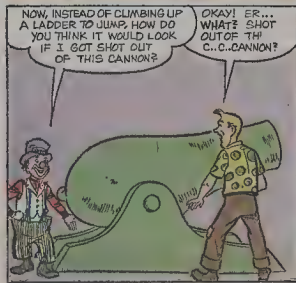


YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN TRYING TO THINK OF SOMETHING TO MAKE MY PARACHUTE-JUMP MORE EXCITING!

MORE EXCITING? OWWW!

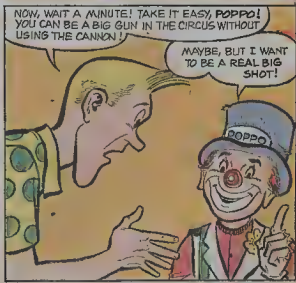


SURE! I WANT IT TO LOOK GOOD WHEN MR. HALEY SEES IT! COME ON—AND I'LL SHOW YOU MY IDEA!



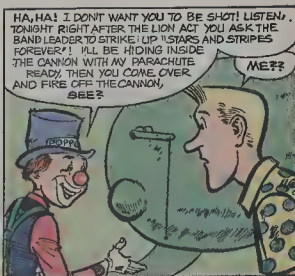
NOW, INSTEAD OF CLIMBING UP A LADDER TO JUMP, HOW DO YOU THINK IT WOULD LOOK IF I GOT SHOT OUT OF THIS CANNON?

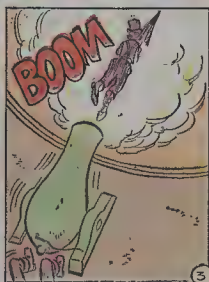
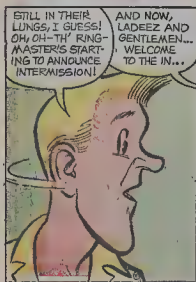
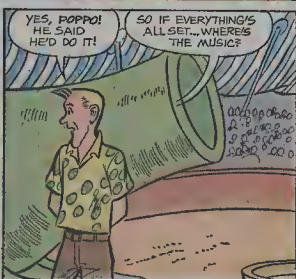
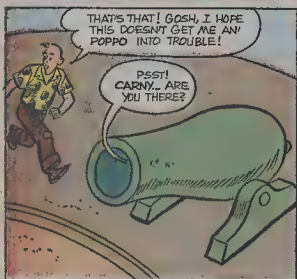
OKAY! ER... WHAT? SHOT OUT OF THE C...C...CANNON?

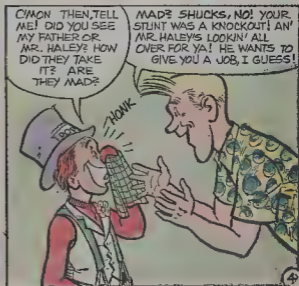
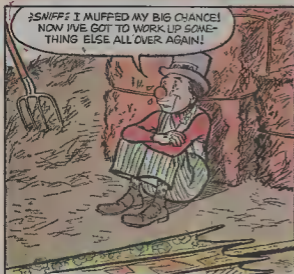
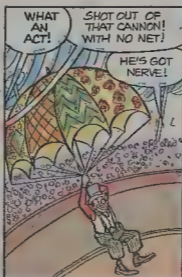
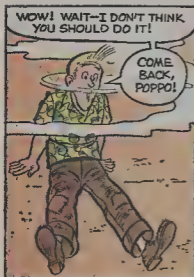


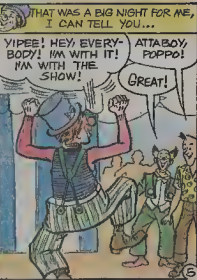
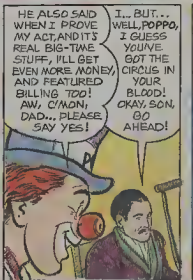
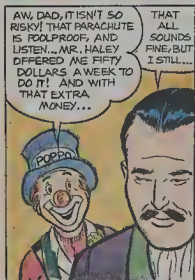
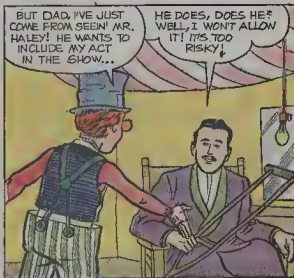
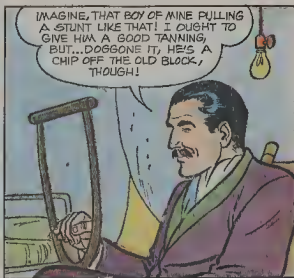
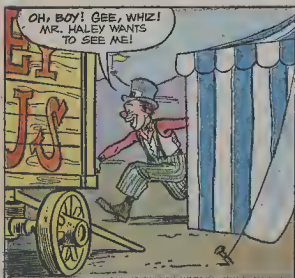
NOW, WAIT A MINUTE! TAKE IT EASY, POPPO! YOU CAN BE A BIG GUN IN THE CIRCUS WITHOUT USING THE CANNON!

MAYBE, BUT I WANT TO BE A REAL BIG SHOT!



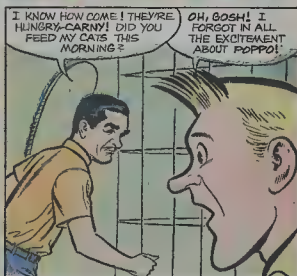
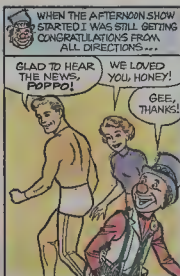
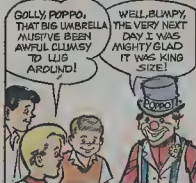


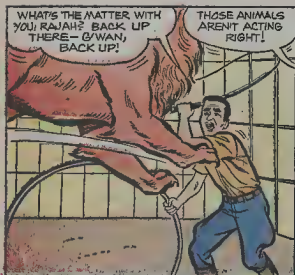




POPPO

"His Roaring Success"





WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, RAJAH? BACK UP THERE—C'WAN, BACK UP!

THOSE ANIMALS AREN'T ACTING RIGHT!



GET BACK, RAJAH!

LOOK! LOOK! RAJAH CLAWED HIM!

COME OUT, AXEL! YOU CAN'T HANDLE THEM NOW!



KEEP CALM, EVERYBODY! DON'T GET PANICKY! YOU'RE RIGHT, POPPO, I'LL HAVE TO COME OUT! NOBODY CAN HANDLE A HUNGRY LION WHEN HE SMELLS BLOOD!



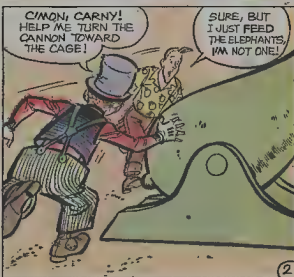
GET BACK THERE—EASY DOES IT! HEY, GIVE ME A HAND, POPPO! THE DOOR IS STUCK!

GEE, AXEL, IT WON'T OPEN! IT'S JAMMED! DO SOMETHING!



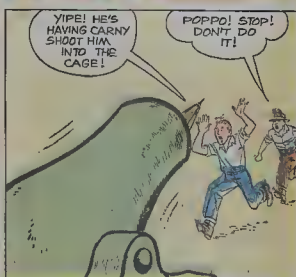
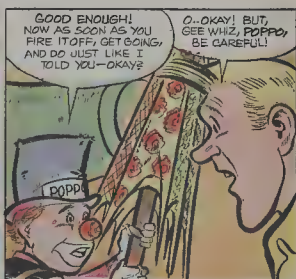
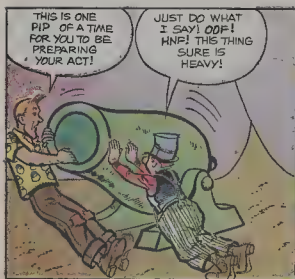
GET TO ONE SIDE, AXEL! THEY'RE COMPLETELY OUT OF HAND! WE MAY HAVE TO SHOOT!

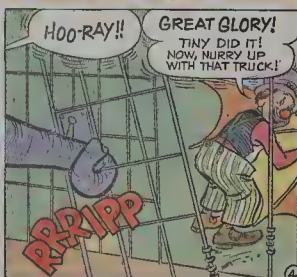
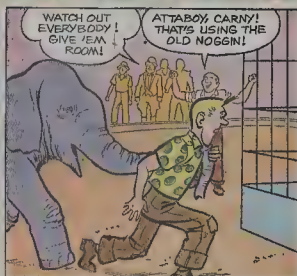
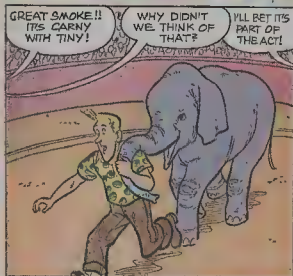
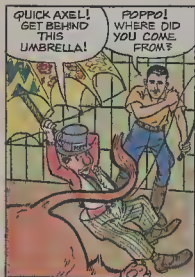
NO—DON'T DO IT! THEY'RE TOO VALUABLE! I'LL GET OUT SOME WAY!



C'MON, CARNY! HELP ME TURN THE CANNON TOWARD THE CAGE!

SURE, BUT I JUST FEED THE ELEPHANTS, I'M NOT ONE!

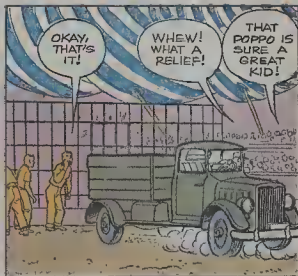






WOWEE! I'M GLAD WE'RE OUT OF THERE! BACK THAT TRUCK UP AGAINST THE DOOR—REAL GENTLE!

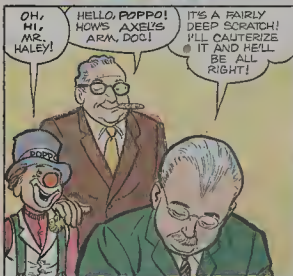
BE CAREFUL! DON'T CRASH THE CAGE DOWN! EASY DOES IT!



OKAY, THAT'S IT!

WHEW! WHAT A RELIEF!

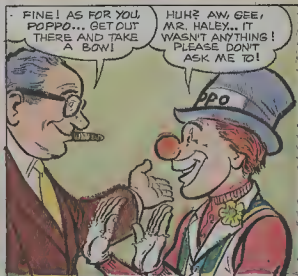
THAT POPPO IS SURE A GREAT KID!



OH, HI, MR. HALEY!

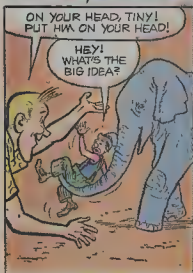
HELLO, POPPO! HOW'S AXEL'S ARM, DOC?

IT'S A FAIRLY DEEP SCRATCH! I'LL CAUTERIZE IT AND HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!



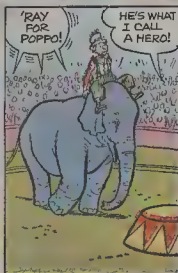
FINE! AS FOR YOU, POPPO... GET OUT THERE AND TAKE A BOW!

HUH? AW, GEE, MR. HALEY... IT WASN'T ANYTHING! PLEASE DON'T ASK ME TO!



ON YOUR HEAD, TINY! PUT HIM ON YOUR HEAD!

HEY! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?



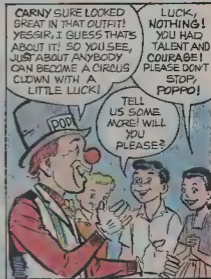
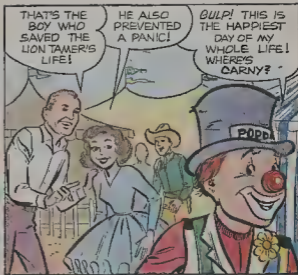
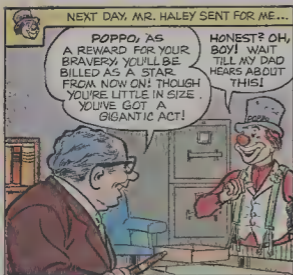
'RAY FOR POPPO!

HE'S WHAT I CALL A HERO!



THAT WAS ONE OF THE BRAVEST THINGS I'VE EVER SEEN! I'M PROUD OF YOU, MY SON!

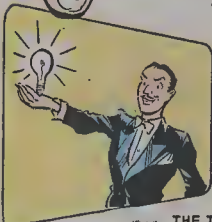
GOSH, DAD—THANKS!





THE MOST AMAZING TRICKS EVER DONE

FOLLOW THE LEADER



One of the most amazing magic tricks performed in America has been Harry Blackstone's Floating Electric Light. From a table lamp he was able to unscrew a lighted bulb which continued to glow as he balanced it in the palm of his hand. Furthermore it remained suspended in mid-air after he walked away from it, and at his command followed him wherever he went. Every few steps he passed his hands over, under and around it to prove that it was not supported or lit by hidden wires.

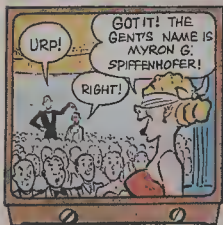
THE TRICK DOLLAR

An exceedingly difficult billiard table trick has been successfully performed by Charles C. Peterson of St. Louis, the greatest trick shot player of all time. After placing a silver dollar on edge between the cubes and against the cushion at one end of the table, Peterson was able to hit the coin with his cue so that it rolled to the other end and then returned to its original upright position between the cubes. He performed this trick with success on an average of once in six tries.



NO TELEPATHY

The most complete and amazing mind reading act was the one developed by Mr. and Mrs. Julius Zancig and used in their vaudeville act in the early 1900's. Their code consisted of nearly 500 innocent phrases and gestures with which Zancig, in the aisle, conveyed to his wife on the stage, the answers to the questions he was about to ask her. Consequently, she was able to describe or read anything handed to him by members of the audience.





THE CIRCUS WORLD'S MOST UNUSUAL FACTS

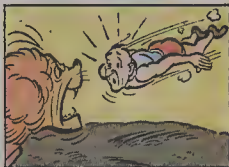
A SOFT DIVE

When his oct, which consisted of diving 51 feet into a shallow tank, became a bit stale, an American circus performer in Copenhagen, Denmark, decided to try something new. His present act consists of diving from a narrow platform high in the air, and landing on his head on a sixteen inch thickness of foam rubber. His next step: thinner rubber.



WRONG SHOT

A veteran human cannonball left the circus in Barcelona, Spain, stammering that he had lost his nerve. Later he confessed his reason for doing so. His explanation: "My wife fires the cannon, but her aim has gotten bad. When she shot me into the lion's cage, I quit." (April, 1955)



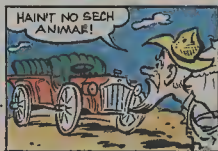
KING SIZE

Although she weighs 585 pounds and measures a wholesome 72-67-84, the stout lady of an American circus side-show, does not believe in starving herself out of the fat salary her job provides her with. Although her 130 pound boy friend feels he's lucky to have so much girl friend he does admit his pocket grows lighter as she 'grows' heavier, whenever they date. Despite her huge appetite, the good-natured, professional fat lady is content with her lot and the big role she plays in the circus world.



MECHANICAL ATTRACTION

Americo's first automobiles were considered such curiosities that the Barnum and Bailey circus exhibited one of them, a Duryea Motor Wagon, during its 1896 season.



ANYONE FOR TEA?

Not only are flying saucers zooming about but tea cups and spoons as well. The chap responsible for this tempest is a 21 year old circus performer who balances himself on a unicycle and flips cups and saucers onto his head with the toe of his right foot. He doesn't stop until seven sets of cups and saucers are resting atop his head, after which he tosses a teaspoon into the last cup. It has been suggested that he also flip a pot of tea on his noggin and proceed to pour the beverage into the seven cups for the audience.



* * *

THE BIG PARADE

A street parade staged by the Barnum and Bailey Circus in New York on March 18, 1893, was the most elaborate circus procession ever presented. The spectacle was headed by a platoon of mounted police and included three bands, three colliopes, a fife and drum corps of fifty men, scores of costumed performers riding on horses, camels and elephants, nine Roman chariots, seven wagons with cages of wild beasts, and twenty-two trucks carrying posters of famous events. The entire parade comprised at least forty vehicles, 250 animals and 475 individuals, and was over two miles long.

* * *

COME SEE MY ETCHINGS

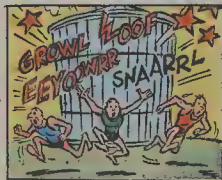
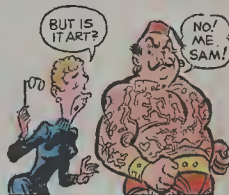
Probably the world's most famous tattooed specimen was a Turk who was brought to the United States by the late P. T. Barnum. Every part of the man's body was tattooed. Barnum paid the highly decorated Turk \$1,000 a week and dubbed him "The Living Picture Gallery." There were 388 separate designs tattooed on his body.

* * *

A DANGEROUS MIXTURE

An American trainer was the first to mix lions and tigers, both male and female, in the same cage. At one time he had a total of forty lions, tigers, and bears all performing together within a thirty two foot arena. Bears are considered the most dangerous of animals. In mixed acts, they have been known to kill lions and tigers.

* * *



POPPO'S

TRUNK OF TRICKS

NO. 1

LOOK AT THIS ROPE, KIDS! I CAN TAKE BOTH ENDS OF THE ROPE IN MY HANDS AND TIE A KNOT IN IT, WITHOUT LETTING GO OF THE ENDS!

HEY, DID YOU EVER TRY WRITING WITH INVISIBLE INK? LISTEN TO THIS! YOU CAN MAKE THE WRITING APPEAR WHENEVER YOU WANT! HOW ABOUT THAT?

PLACE THE ROPE (OR STRING) ON THE TABLE AND FOLD YOUR ARMS. NOW BEND FORWARD AND TAKE THE ENDS IN YOUR HANDS. SIT BACK, UNCROSS YOUR ARMS, AND YOU WILL FIND THAT A KNOT HAS BEEN TIED.

ANYONE CAN MAKE INVISIBLE INK BY WRITING WITH LEMON OR ONION JUICE. THE WRITING IS INVISIBLE UNTIL EXPOSED TO THE WARM RAYS OF THE SUN. THEN THE LETTERS MYSTERIOUSLY APPEAR ON THE PAPER.

NOW TRY THIS! PLACE A BOTTLE ON THE TABLE AND PUT A SMALL CORK IN ITS MOUTH. NOW TRY TO BLOW THE CORK INTO THE BOTTLE... HO! HO! DOESN'T WORK, DOES IT?

AND NOW, KIDS, THE SENSATIONAL ICE CUBE DERRICK FEAT! I SHALL LIFT AN ICE CUBE OUT OF A GLASS OF WATER BY USING A SHORT PIECE OF STRING, WITHOUT TOUCHING THE ICE WITH MY FINGERS!

HERE'S HOW TO DO IT. BLOW DIRECTLY ONTO THE CORK, AND THE CORK WILL GO INTO THE BOTTLE.

THE END OF THE STRING IS FIRST DIPPED INTO THE WATER UNTIL IT IS THOROUGHLY WET. IT IS THEN LAID ACROSS THE TOP OF THE ICE AND A LITTLE SALT IS SPRINKLED ON IT. THE SALT WILL MELT THE ICE A BIT, BUT IT WILL REFREEZE TO THE STRING ALMOST AT ONCE. THEN YOU CAN LIFT OUT THE ICE CUBE.



HEY, POPPO, GOT ANY MORE TRICKS UP YOUR SLEEVE?

YEP! HERES A CORKER! MOST ALL KIDS LIKE LOUD NOISES! OKAY, I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO SHOOT A CORK OUT OF A SODA BOTTLE WITH A LOUD POPPO! I MEAN...POP!

POP!

LET'S TRY THIS! PUT A DIME IN ONE HAND AND A PENNY IN THE OTHER! NOW, MULTIPLY THE VALUE OF THE COIN IN YOUR RIGHT HAND BY 4, 6 OR 8. MULTIPLY THE VALUE OF THE COIN IN YOUR LEFT HAND BY 3, 5 OR 7! NOW ADD THE TWO RESULTS AND GIVE ME THE TOTAL! I CAN TELL YOU WHICH HAND CONTAINS THE DIME AND WHICH HAND HAS THE PENNY!

POUR VINEGAR INTO THE BOTTLE AND SWIFTLY PLACE THE CORK INTO THE NECK OF THE BOTTLE. IT WILL GOON POP OUT WITH A LOUD NOISE.

IF THE TOTAL GIVEN IS AN EVEN NUMBER, THE PENNY IS IN THE RIGHT HAND. IF THE TOTAL IS AN ODD NUMBER, THE PENNY IS IN THE LEFT HAND.

THIS IS A LOT OF FUN, KIDS! YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN BOAT SAIL IN WATER WITHOUT ANY KIND OF MOTOR TO MAKE IT GO! ALL YOU NEED IS A PIECE OF CARDBOARD AND A CHIP OF SOAP!

NOW FOR A PUZZLING TRICK OF THE HUMAN BREATH! HERE ARE TWO APPLES, ABOUT AN INCH AND A HALF APART, HANGING ON LONG STRINGS! I'LL BLOW VIGOROUSLY BETWEEN THEM! BUT INSTEAD OF FLYING APART, THEY BUMP INTO EACH OTHER!

CUT A PIECE OF CARDBOARD INTO THE SHAPE OF A BOAT AND CUT A LITTLE V SHAPED NOTCH IN ITS STERN. INSERT THE BIT OF SOAP IN THE NOTCH, PLACE THE BOAT IN A PAN OF WATER, AND IT WILL MOVE ALL AROUND THE SURFACE OF THE WATER. THE LARGER THE PAN, THE LONGER THE TRIP.

EXPLANATION: NORMAL AIR PRESSURE ON THE OUTER SIDES OF THE APPLES PUSHES THEM INTO THE REGION OF LOW PRESSURE CREATED BY POPPO'S SWIFT BLOWING.



THOSE WERE GREAT, POPPO! HOW'S ABOUT A FEW MORE?

POPPOS
TRUNK of TRICKS NO. 3

OKAY, BUMPY! HERE'S A REAL CUTE TRICK WITH NUMBERS! FIRST—WRITE DOWN THE NUMBER OF BROTHERS YOU HAVE! NOW, MULTIPLY BY 2, ADD 3 AND MULTIPLY BY 5! ADD THE NUMBER OF SISTERS YOU HAVE! NOW DON'T LET ME SEE WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN WRITING! JUST GIVE ME THE ANSWER YOU GET, AND I'LL TELL YOU HOW MANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS YOU HAVE!

NOW, WATCH THIS! I CAN TAKE A PENNY AND STICK IT AGAINST THE WALL WITHOUT USING GLUE!

31
6 + 3 = 9 + 5 = 45
450 45
450

EXPLANATION: ALL POPPO HAS TO DO IS TO SUBTRACT 15 FROM THE ANSWER. THE LEFT HAND DIGIT TELLS THE NUMBER OF BROTHERS THE RIGHT DIGIT THE NUMBER OF SISTERS.

BY RUBBING VIGOROUSLY, FOR A FEW SECONDS ON A COIN HELD AGAINST A WOODEN WALL, YOU HAVE REMOVED THE FILM OF AIR BETWEEN THE COIN AND THE WOOD, AND THE PRESSURE OF THE AIR KEEPS IT PRESSED AGAINST THE WALL.

YOU MAY NOT KNOW THIS, KIDS, BUT MILK, WHICH LOOKS WHITE, CAN BE MADE TO CHANGE INTO OTHER COLORS LIKE YELLOW OR BLUE!

...AND HERE IS HOW YOU CAN LOOK THROUGH "A HOLE IN YOUR HAND!" PLACE A TUBE OF PAPER, 8 INCHES LONG, TO YOUR RIGHT EYE, THEN HOLD YOUR LEFT PALM, HALFWAY DOWN THE TUBE, IN FRONT OF YOUR LEFT EYE! A HOLE WILL MAGICALLY APPEAR IN YOUR PALM, THROUGH WHICH YOU CAN... GULP! SEE OTHER OBJECTS!

EXPLANATION: MIX A FEW DROPS OF MILK INTO A GLASS OF WATER, DARKEN THE ROOM AND SHINE A FLASHLIGHT INTO THE GLASS. LOOKING DIRECTLY AT THE FLASHLIGHT BEAM THROUGH THE GLASS, THE LIGHT APPEARS YELLOW. WITHOUT MOVING THE LIGHT, LOOK AT THE LIGHT BEAM FROM THE SIDE AND THE LIQUID APPEARS BLUE.

THIS IS AN AMAZING OPTICAL ILLUSION. TRY IT!



KIDS!

See and hear me every week

ON T.V.

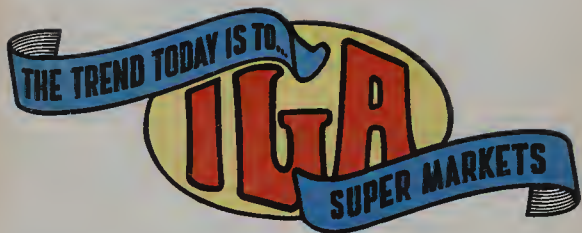
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